

Response to Office Action dated December 7, 2005

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 are currently pending. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claim 3. Further, Applicants have added new independent claim 7 which includes the limitations of independent claim 1, and dependent claims 4 and 5 which the Examiner already indicated recite patentable subject matter. Applicants believe new claim 7 to define patentable subject matter. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and in view of the following remarks.

**CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

Claim 3 has been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Instead, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3. Thus, claim 1 is believed to define patentable subject matter.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,450,289 to Marek (“Marek”). Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that the claims as properly understood by those skilled in the art are patentably distinct from the cited reference.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of former claim 3, which the Examiner has

Response to Office Action dated December 7, 2005

indicated recites patentable subject matter. Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1, and is believed to define patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Marek is respectfully requested.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Marek in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,432,176 to Klos et al. (“Klos et al.”). Applicants submit that claim 6 is patentably distinct from the cited references taken either alone or in combination.

As stated above, independent claim 1, has been amended to recite the limitations of former claim 3 so as to now define patentable subject matter. Claim 6, which depends from independent claim 1, is believed to define patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Marek in view of Klos et al, is respectfully requested.

Response to Office Action dated December 7, 2005

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

**AUTHORIZATION**

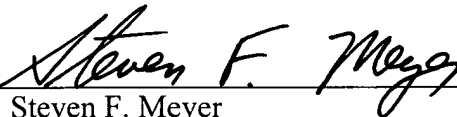
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5000-5133. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5000-5133. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: March 6, 2006

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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